IDS filed in this application on 5/14/1998 and because there are 24 claims in this application rather than 16.

The Examiner has suggested that the TITLE of the application be changed to "Authoring E-Mail with Modular Components". It is respectfully submitted that the present title is more descriptive and more accurate than the title proposed by the Examiner. The present title is "Electronic Mail Software with Modular Integrated Authoring/Reading Software Components". The word "integrated" is important as it distinguishes the invention from the prior art wherein stand alone applications can communicate with an email client using technology such as OLE/DocObject. Also, the word "Reading" is important because the integrated components of the invention permit reading as well as authoring. The originally filed claims did not mention reading components as it was believed that claiming the authoring components was sufficient to capture the essence of the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to include reading components thereby conforming it to the title of the invention. From the specification it will be appreciated that authoring and reading components may be a single component which provides authoring and reading or separate authoring and reading components. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the title remain unchanged.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-2, 10-11, and 14-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Fleming, a book about how to use Microsoft Internet Explorer 4 including Outlook Express Email. In the section of Fleming devoted to Email and "inserting stationary", it is stated that a background graphic can be pasted into a text email message. The graphic file is sent as an attachment to the email message and Outlook Express displays it as a background image behind the text when the email is viewed. The Examiner suggests that this feature of Outlook Express is equivalent to the claimed authoring component in clause "a)" of claim 1.

The Examiner's interpretation of the language of clause "a)" is not wholly unreasonable. Arguably, the portion of Outlook Express which allows one to paste a picture into an email message is indeed a component "for creating a representation of a document including other than text". That is it creates a document which includes other than text. However, that is not the gist of the invention. The integrated components of the invention are not for merely capturing document content created by a separate application and pasting that content to an email message. The authoring components of the invention are for creating the content. In order to further clarify this aspect of the invention, claim 1 has been amended to read that at least one of the authoring components is "for creating an other than text

portion of a document". This clearly distinguishes from Fleming because Fleming does not have any means for creating a graphic image, only means for capturing an image created by another program.

Claims 2, 10, and 11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Further, with regard to claim 2, the Examiner refers to the spell checker in Outlook Express as an "installable" component. The Examiner is clearly misinterpreting the word installable. As that word is normally understood in the software arts and as it is used in the instant application, one would not say that the spell checker in Outlook Express is "installable". The spell checker in Outlook Express is an inseparable part of the program and is not something which is installed. If the Examiner continues to maintain this rejection, it is respectfully requested that he explain how he is interpreting the word installable.

With regard to claim 11, there is no evidence that the stationary picture paster or the spell checker in Outlook Express communicates bidirectionally with the encoding/decoding means. In the present invention, the authoring components communicate with the encoding means so that different kinds of documents are encoded in different ways. The reading components recognize the document type by the way it is encoded. Clearly, neither the

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spell checker nor the picture paste function in Outlook Express operate in this way.

The rejection of claims 14-20 at this point is not understood as these claims depend from claim 13 and claim 13 has yet to be rejected. The Examiner's comments regarding claim 14 is that it is the same as claim 2. The Applicant's response is therefore the same as with regard to claim 2. The Examiner offers no comments about claims 15-19 and the Applicant therefore cannot respond to the rejection. Claim 20 is rejected on the same grounds as claim 1. The Applicant's response is therefore the same as with regard to claim 1.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 15, 16, 21, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Fleming in view of Wolf et al.

Wolf et al. describes a Microsoft technology known as OLE/DocObject. This technology allows one application to communicate with another application so that data can be exchanged between applications. Wolf et al. describes, in particular, a word processor program communicating with an email program and mentions in passing that other programs such as spreadsheet programs could also communicate with the email program.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, and 12 all depend from claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly indicate the nature of the authoring/reading components of the invention. The word integrated has been added to the claim. The meaning of this can be understood from the specification where the components open windows within the email program. This is quite different from Wolf et al. where the authoring component and the email client are clearly two distinct programs.

With regard to claims 8 and 9, it is respectfully submitted that there is no evidence in any of the cited art to provide "a plurality of installable mailbox/browser components, each of said mailbox/browser components displaying different types of documents in a user's mailbox." The Examiner's assertion that the teachings of Wolf et al. render it obvious is clearly erroneous. There is no suggestion whatsoever in Wolf et al. to provide such and the Applicant respectfully suggests that, should the Examiner maintain this rejection, he provide details where these components can be found in the art. The Examiner cannot assume that the prior art contains this element when it is not clearly shown in the prior art. See, Ex parte Wolters and Kuypers, 214 U.S.P.Q. 735 (Bd.App. 1979) (Examiner's burden of supporting his holding of unpatentability is not met by "assuming" presence of missing component).

With regard to claim 12, there is no suggestion in the art of record to provide an authoring component with means for allowing a user to create a read-only document. The Examiner's assumption that this would have been obvious is not supported by any reference and thus the rejection cannot stand.

As mentioned above, the rejection of claims 15 and 16 at this point is not understood as these claims depend from claim 13 and claim 13 has yet to be rejected. The Examiner's remarks about these claims indicate that they are rejected on the same grounds as claims 3 and 4. Therefore, the Applicant's response is the same as with regard to claims 3 and 4.

The Applicant's response to the rejection of claim 21 is the same as with regard to claims 1 and 20.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Fleming. Fleming, like all email programs, has means for determining whether the user is the author or the recipient of the message. Claim 13 provides that "at least one of said authoring components includes means for determining whether the user is the student or the teacher." The Examiner states that the distinction between student and teacher is merely an obvious variant of the distinction between author and reader. It is respectfully submitted that this conclusion is clearly incorrect since a

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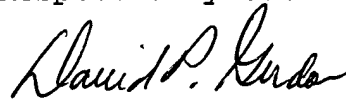teacher can be both an author and a reader and a student can be both an author and a reader.

Claims 5-7, 17-19, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Fleming in view of Hong et al.

Claims 5-7 depend from claim 1. Claims 17-19 depend from claim 13. Claims 23 and 24 depend from claim 20. Thus, the Applicant's response to the rejection of claims 1, 13, and 20 applies to this rejection as well.

New claim 25 has been added. It is believed that new claim 25 distinguishes over the art of record. None of the references teach or suggest an email client which is capable of creating different kinds of email messages using different authoring components.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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